

**CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
MAY 2, 2016 – 7:00 PM**

Mayor Eckert called this meeting to order.

Mayor Eckert explained the disaster procedures. Mayor Eckert reminded anyone speaking this evening to step up to a microphone because the meetings are being taped and posted the next day on the website.

Mayor Eckert requested City Clerk Dallas B. Cook to call roll. Members present on roll call: City Clerk Dallas B. Cook, City Treasurer Hardt and City Attorney Hoerner. Aldermen: Joe Hazel, Ken Kinsella, Jane Pusa, Mike Buettner, Kent Randle, Scott Tyler, Johnny Anthony, Raffi Ovian, Phil Silsby, Ed Dintelman, Paul Seibert, Bob White, Phil Elmore, Roger Wigginton and James Musgrove.

Alderman Galetti excused.

ROLL CALL DEPARTMENT HEADS

Roll Call Department Heads: Fire Chief, Tom Pour; Police Chief, Bill Clay; Director of Maintenance, Ken Vaughn; Director of Wastewater, Royce Carlisle; Finance Director, Jamie Maitret; City Engineer, Tim Gregowicz; Human Resource Director, Jim Schneider; Director of Library, Leander Spearman; Director of Economic Development, Annissa McCaskill; Director of Public Works, Chuck Schaeffer; Director of Parks and Recreation, Debbie Belleville and Health and Housing Director, Bob Sabo.

PLEDGE

Mayor Eckert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lillian Schneider

Where are our hotels? The Mayor's flower shop has been using the cooler way too long...it is becoming a habit. The first few times was okay; however, to make a habit is wrong. The cooler is parked in the loading and unloading zone. What now is used for the loading and unloading zone? It should not be the parking spot or the street. It is time to get a permanent cooler inside and stop making a profit on the taxpayers. No other businesses use the street.

Alicia Bradley

Regarding the property transfer with Lindenwood...it is not clear what this is covering. Several emails were sent and she thanked everyone that responded to her before the meeting. As elected officials due diligence was the oath that was taken; therefore, as taxpaying citizens and vested homeowners are asking who should they contact regarding the questions they have regarding their property i.e. value, depreciation of property values from 2007 compared to 2016 and home appraisals. How can they find out how the properties were assessed at Lindenwood and how they were allowed to purchase or donated? When issues arise they have to attend several meetings which take several months; however, when Lindenwood needs something done or the City needs Lindenwood to allow them to do something it gets resolved fairly easy. She would like to see fair practices and keep moving forward.

Gloria Crowder

Requesting clarity regarding the Ordinance approving the discontinuance and abolishment of Belleville Township and the transfer of all rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations and responsibilities of Belleville Township to the City of Belleville. What rights/powers did Belleville Township have that will be transferred to the City of Belleville?

Michael Hagberg

There was an article in the Belleville News-Democrat over the weekend and it was quoted "property values in the Lindenwood area are going up...up...up". He looked at the property taxes at every elected official standing before him today and last year not a single one saw your property values go up. Since 2011, there has not been one year that one elected official has seen an increase in their property value. If you think you are wrong and your property has gone up please go talk with the county assessor and get your property properly assessed. Other than that every single one has seen a decrease in property values every single year not going up...up...up.

Diane Rogge

Regarding the cafeteria style of ordinance enforcement. They pick and choose who must comply and who doesn't. That is unacceptable.

First example, last month at the housing meeting she spoke about the vehicles parked on grass (there is an ordinance against that). There are several Lindenwood vehicles that are currently parked on grass or what used to be grass. She reported this before the last month's meeting and tonight the vehicles are still parked in the same place. Yet a block and one-half down the street a taxpaying resident was given a violation for having a camper shell in his front yard. You cannot pick and choose....if the ordinance is worth having it is an ordinance for everyone.

Second example is the city is currently hot and heavy on the owner of the Rob Nora apartments to comply over violations of fire safety. According to the mayor at the police and fire meeting after May 1st the city will take them on in court. Lindenwood was instructed by the Illinois State Fire Marshall to install sprinklers in their homes so the city gave those two years to comply. On top of that, no deadline has been set.

Third example, she has called in three times in the last month over the trash in the Lindenwood houses. Dr. Barger stated their security is doing patrols in their personal vehicles.

Maybe it was misunderstood and maybe it was not the property values going up because the property taxes are certainly going up.

Stewart Lannert

Is the motion to approve property transfer the twelve acres of ground that they bought from Belleville for \$1.00. He hopes that is not the \$1.00 school (Belleville West) they bought...they did not buy it for a dollar Belleville has been giving them \$150,000 a year since 2003. The Friday nights party for the elites in O'Fallon and the people's party in Belleville is a good contrast between the two parties. The party at Fischer's was standing room only. The Shrine project seems stalled out. The caution sign on West Main is a waste of money. The hospital moves out, the NGA will not be coming to St. Clair County. What happens in the county also affects Belleville.

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Eckert recognized the character word of the month "self-discipline" meaning, think about your words and actions and then making choices that are right.

Mayor Eckert stated Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the opportunity to publically demonstrate their appreciation for the sacrifices and successes made by our service members – past and present.

Mayor Eckert recommended his Department Head and Staff Appointments for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Alderman Kinsella made a motion seconded by Alderman Seibert to approve his Department Head and Staff Appointments for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Discussion...

Alderman Buettner stated there are several department heads that he was worked with as being an alderman and has respect for them; however, with the chaos that has gone on with Lindenwood there are several departments heads that he sincerely questions their ability to perform their duties; therefore, he will be voting not to approve some of the department heads. There are many he works with everyday and has respect for and they do their job; however, their hands are handcuffed and if they were given the ability to do their jobs things could move smoothly in the city.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (14)

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Members voting nay on roll call: Buettner. (1)

Mayor Eckert recommended City Council Committee Appointments for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Alderman Seibert made a motion seconded by Alderman Pusa to approve City Council Committee Appointments for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

Mayor Eckert recommended the reappointment of Jim Rokita to serve a two year term on the Police Pension Board.

Alderman Tyler made a motion seconded by Alderman Anthony to approve the reappointment of Jim Rokita to serve a two year term on the Police Pension Board.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Seibert made a motion seconded by Alderman Pusa to approve to accept and file the minutes of May 2, 2016.

All members voted aye.

CLAIMS, PAYROLL, AND DISBURSEMENTS

Alderman Wigginton made a motion seconded by Alderman Anthony to accept and pay the claims in the amount of **\$2,851,251.92** and payroll in the amount of **\$1,147,455.48**.

Discussion...

Alderman Buettner inquired about the \$23,507 expense; Director of Finance Jamie Maitret stated it is the final payment to the attorney in Chicago regarding St. Elizabeth.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

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REPORTS

Alderman Seibert made a motion seconded by Alderman White to accept and file City Attorney report dated April 28, 2016.

All members voted aye.

ORAL REPORTS

BOARD OF FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION

Alderman Anthony made a motion seconded by Alderman Ovian to approve the hiring two police officers Kyle M. Wilson and Aaron T. Spargur.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

MASTER SEWER COMMITTEE:

Alderman Dintelman made a motion seconded by Alderman Kinsella to accept and have Mayor Eckert sign sewer easements with Don C. Woodrome Trust, Kenneth, Michael and Robyn Weilbacher, and Laborers Local #459.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

Alderman Dintelman made a motion seconded by Alderman Pusa to approve low bid for South 11th Street Sewer Extension to Hank's Excavating and Landscaping for \$496,865.00.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

Alderman Dintelman made a motion seconded by Alderman Seibert to approve to approve property transfer agreement with Lindenwood.

Discussion...

Director of Wasterwater, Royce Carlisle, stated this is property needed to complete the pump station for the Phase IV long term control plan. The property is valued between \$25,000-\$30,000 and Lindenwood is donating the property to the city.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (14)

Members voting aye on roll call: Buettner (1)

ADMINISTRATION

Alderman Kinsella made a motion seconded by Alderman Silsby to enter into an agreement with Word Systems Inc. for 911 recording software that includes hardware and software updates for a period of 10 years.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

Alderman Wigginton made a motion seconded by Alderman Ovian to enter into an agreement with Lindenwood University-Belleville for a Facility Use Agreement.

Discussion...

Alderman Buettner asked if the city has received the letter from their counsel allowing citizens to come onto their property; City Attorney Hoerner stated it is contained in ¶1.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (14)

Members voting aye on roll call: Buettner (1)

ORDINANCE AND LEGAL COMMITTEE:

Alderman Seibert made a motion to approve seconded by Alderman Dintelman an Ordinance Approving the Discontinuance and Abolishment of Belleville Township and the Transfer of all the Rights, Powers, Duties, Assets, Property, Liabilities, Obligations and Responsibilities of Belleville Township to the City of Belleville.

Discussion...

City Attorney Hoerner stated the Township approved in January 2016 and the next step under the Article 28 of the Township Code is for this council to accept the transfer. Mayor Eckert will be appointing a task force to make recommendations to this council since ultimately between now and the time it is actually assumed the ordinances will have to be amended to set forth how it will function within the city and will be providing the same services.

Mayor Eckert stated the township rents the building. The task force will include Dennis Korte, Township Supervisor, Jim Schneider, Director of Community Development, and Dallas Cook, the City and Township Clerk as ex officios. The task force is made up of a wide group of individuals who in many cases work with the township. The Belleville Township is the second in the State of Illinois to make the transition.

City Clerk Cook stated there is approximately \$700,000 that will be brought into the city and that is a positive and another question was asked as to why it has taken so long to happen. City Clerk

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Cook stated he was not elected until 2013 and has been working on it every day since. This is a historic moment and congratulations to the taxpayers who will save a few bucks and will get a better bang for their buck for the same services.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Kinsella made a motion seconded by Alderman Wigginton to approve the following communications:

Communication from Lindenwood requesting to hold a dance on May 5, 2016 from 9:00 p.m. until midnight on the tennis courts. (*this type of an event has been requested and approved over the last several years*).

Communication from Beacon Ministry requesting to hold their 4th Annual 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, July 23, 2016.

All members voted aye.

RESOLUTIONS

Alderman Silsby made a motion seconded by Alderman Seibert to read Resolutions 3264 and 3265 by title only and as a group.

All members voted aye.

Alderman Silsby made a motion seconded by Alderman Pusa to approve the following Resolutions 3264 and 3265:

RESOLUTION NO. 3264

A Resolution Whereas the City of Belleville Art on the Square is sponsoring their event May 12-15, 2016.

RESOLUTION NO. 3265

A Resolution Whereas the City of Belleville Wine, Dine & Jazz is sponsoring their event June 24-25, 2016.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

ORDINANCES

Alderman Silsby made a motion seconded by Alderman Dintelman to read Ordinance 7949-2016 and 7949-2016 by title only and as a group.

All members voted aye.

Alderman Silsby made a motion seconded by Alderman Seibert to approve **ORDINANCE NO. 7949-2016** An Ordinance Approving the Discontinuance and Abolishment of Belleville Township and the Transfer of all the Rights, Powers, Duties, Assets, Property, Liabilities, Obligations and Responsibilities of Belleville Township to the City of Belleville.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

Alderman Silsby made a motion seconded by Alderman White to approve **ORDINANCE NO. 7950-2016** Motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 52 (Traffic) of the revised ordinances of the City of Belleville, Illinois as amended, by amending portions of sections thereof.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

MISCELLANEOUS & NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Elmore stated for years the citizens and elected officials have asked why you would have township services contiguous within the city limits. Alderman Elmore thanked City Clerk Cook for single handedly got this off of the ground. As Clerk, he continually had the recipients of township services first, at heart, and taxpayers' savings.

Alderman Ovian spoke regarding the property at Rob Nora. Mayor Eckert stated Rob Nora has been in court for many years. Alderman Buettner stated Rob Nora is being taken to court because they are not following through and Lindenwood was supposed to put sprinklers in the homes and there is no deadline. Rob Nora needs to be torn down.

Alderman Seibert made a motion seconded by Alderman White to approve the Motor Fuel Claims in the Amount of **\$1,462.95**.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

Alderman Pusa seconded by Alderman Kinsella to approve the appointments of Belleville Township Transition Task Force.

Discussion...

City Clerk Cook stated his one concern about the task force is he doesn't see anyone on there representing the taxpayers and second what is the difference between being a staff support and ex officio vs. being on the committee. City Clerk Cook stated he is speaking for himself for his involvement over the last three years.

Mayor Eckert stated he decided not to make it political. City Clerk Cook stated he is not talking politics he is talking taxpayers. City Clerk Cook stated the proposed task force is made up of individuals that represent organizations that currently receive money from the township. City Clerk Cook stated the organizations that receive money are great organizations; however, he would like to have someone to be a good steward of the funds i.e. joe taxpayer. Mayor Eckert stated the meetings will be public and handicap accessible.

City Attorney Hoerner stated there will be nine members on the committee none of which will be affiliated directly with the city or the township. City Attorney Hoerner stated an ex officio member is an actual member of the committee and staff support is not. City Clerk Cook asked if he will have a vote.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (14)

Members voting nay on roll call: Buettner. (1)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Pusa made a motion seconded by Alderman Kinsella to go into executive session to discuss Collective Bargaining (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) and Pending Litigation. (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)).

All members voted aye.

Entered executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Resumed from Executive Session at 8:08 p.m.

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Alderman Kinsella made a motion seconded by Alderman White to approve the successor bargaining agreement between the City of Belleville and the Teamster's Clerical Union Local 50 for May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2019 which contemplates annual raises of 2%, 2%, 2% and 3%.

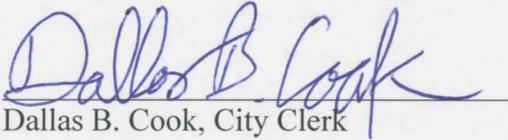
Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Elmore, Wigginton and Musgrove. (15)

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Tyler made a motion seconded by Alderman Elmore to adjourn at 8:09 pm.

All members voted aye.

These minutes were approved May 16, 2016.


Dallas B. Cook, City Clerk